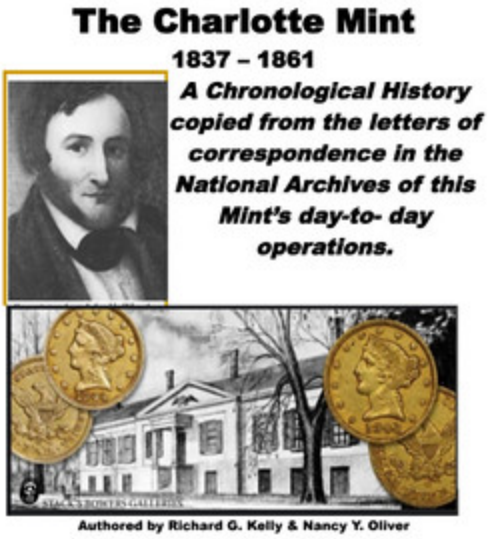
Southern Gold Society
FOUNDED 2001
www.SouthernGoldSociety.org
Newsletter

2026 Membership Dues

The 2026 membership dues are now due. If you joined between October and December 2025, your membership is good through the end of 2026. Checks for membership dues ($25) should be made payable to the Southern Gold Society and mailed to:
David Crenshaw
P.O. Box 237
Dacula, GA 30019
Thank you!

New Book Explores the Charlotte Mint's Storied Past


The Charlotte Mint
1837 – 1861
A Chronological History copied from the letters of correspondence in the National Archives of this Mint's day-to- day operations.
Authored by Richard G. Kelly & Nancy Y. Oliver

The Southern Gold Society is pleased to announce a significant new publication for numismatic enthusiasts: *The Charlotte Mint 1837–1861* by Richard G. Kelly and Nancy Y. Oliver. Now available through the Newman Numismatic Portal, this meticulously researched book offers an in-depth look at the Charlotte Branch Mint, a cornerstone of Southern gold coinage history.

Authorized by Congress on March 3, 1835, the Charlotte Mint was established alongside other Southern mints to process gold from regional mines. Drawing on original correspondence from the U.S. National Archives, the authors weave a vivid narrative of the mint's operations, starting with its first bullion deposits in 1837 and the eventual launch of coin production in March 1838. The book delves into the challenges faced by Superintendent John H. Wheeler and his team, including Coiner John R. Bolton and Assayer Dr. John H. Gibbon. Their letters to Mint Director Robert M. Patterson reveal a saga of mechanical failures—such as broken rollers and leaking roofs—supply shortages, and interpersonal conflicts that tested the mint's resilience.

The narrative unfolds year by year, chronicling pivotal events like the catastrophic fire of 1844, which disrupted operations, and ongoing struggles with coinage production and personnel disputes. The book also addresses the mint's final chapter during the Civil War, when Confederate forces seized control in 1861, halting coin production. Thereafter, the facility served as an Assay Office until 1913. By analyzing key documents, Kelly and Oliver correct longstanding errors in mintage records and shed light on die shipments and production challenges.

This work stands as a tribute to the Charlotte Mint's legacy, building on the foundational research of scholars like Roger Burdette and Robert Julian. Donated to the Newman Numismatic Portal, it preserves the firsthand accounts of a mint that played a vital role in the South's economic and numismatic history. Southern Gold Society members and collectors alike will find this book an invaluable resource for understanding the triumphs and trials of one of America's most fascinating mints.

Access the book online at the Newman Numismatic Portal here.

Writers Needed

One of the purposes of the SGS is to "enjoy each member's knowledge." This newsletter is one of the ways this numismatic knowledge is dispersed. The frequency of the newsletter is driven by the number of submissions for publication. The editor of the SGS eNewsletter needs new material and welcomes the opportunity to review your original article for publication. Articles should be relevant to the study of the gold coins and related history of the

Dahlonega, Charlotte, and New Orleans branch mints and private minters Templeton Reid and the Bechtlers. If you do a presentation at a gathering or other venue, consider compiling your notes into an article. Do not worry about the grammar. The editor will do the rest. Electronic manuscripts should be submitted by email to contactus@southerngoldsociety.org.

Mission Statement

The Southern Gold Society was formed to increase the enjoyment and study of Southern gold coins and related history, through an informal, relaxed mix of education and fellowship. The society is reminiscent of those of a bygone era, in which connoisseurship and a gentlemanly appreciation of Southern gold coins is the order of the day.

Purpose

- To facilitate the enjoyment and study of the gold coins and related history of the Southern branch mints (Dahlonega, Charlotte, and New Orleans) and private Southern minters (Templeton Reid and the Bechtlers).
- To enjoy each member's knowledge and friendship in an informal manner.
- To provide a relaxed, pleasant environment in which to meet during selected coin shows and other convenient events.
- To encourage the appreciation and preservation of a Southern gold coin’s original surfaces.
- To consolidate the information, resources, and talent available to enthusiasts of these historic Southern gold coins.

Annual Membership Fees

Regular $25 (January-December).

Membership for new members joining in October, November, or December extends through the next year. Checks for membership fees should be made payable to the Southern Gold Society and mailed to David Crenshaw, P.O. Box 237, Dacula, GA 30019-0004.

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Our mailing address is:
Southern Gold Society
P.O. Box 237
Dacula, GA 30019

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